

Note of key points:

Consultation Meeting with Scottish Friends of Israel, 19th November 2015

Present:

[REDACTED] (Chairperson, Scottish Friends of Israel)
[REDACTED] (Treasurer, Scottish Friends of Israel)
[REDACTED] (Chairperson, Scottish Association of Jewish Teachers)
[REDACTED] (Scottish Friends of Israel)
Paul McWatt (Education Scotland)

Context of meeting:

Education Scotland initially met with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on 8th September 2015 to discuss concerns that had [REDACTED] had communicated to Dr Allan (MSP). At this meeting it was agreed that a consultation meeting with the Scottish Friends of Israel (SFI) should be arranged; [REDACTED] (Education Scotland) would liaise with [REDACTED] and his associates, and relay any feedback to the cross-authority working group which was developing the resource.

Purpose of meeting:

To discuss with [REDACTED] and associates with regard in regards to the proposed teaching and learning resource on Israel and Palestine under development by local authority representatives; specifically, to seek the Scottish Friends of Israel's view of the stated aims and progression framework that the cross-authority working group has developed.

General feedback:

- To what extent has the Scottish Israeli community, been consulted in the development of this resource? (Who?)
- Is the group producing materials for any other topic linked to possible areas of conflict?
- Is there a need for this particular resource? Are there significant numbers of schools learning about this topic?
- Concern expressed by SFI that the production of this material for use in schools is inappropriate and divisive:
 - o It is a very complex subject that doesn't lend itself to learning in upper primary or secondary schools.
 - o It is dangerous to bring this into school as it will bring anti-Semitism into the classroom
 - o It is shocking to use this topic as a 'human rights problem'
 - o Staff knowledge and understanding of this topic would need to be strong; how can this be assured?
 - o Jewish and Muslim children could be upset as a result of the learning experiences.
 - o It would be impossible to achieve a balanced exploration of this topic
- Concern about personal bias of a key member of the development group